

Appl. No.: 10/827,077
Amdt. dated 03/01/2006
Reply to Office action of December 13, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the final paragraph of page 1, which is continued on page 2, of the specification with the following paragraph:

During the ultrasonic welding process, pressure is typically applied to the component being welded. Such pressure ensures ~~the~~that one or more components are properly joined during the relatively brief period of time that the material is heated. Therefore, applying pressure to the component is an important aspect of ultrasonic welding. However, when components defining unusual shapes or sizes require ultrasonic welding, providing the proper pressure to the component can be complicated. One example of such a component is a rolled sheet being welded into a tube. One technique for providing the proper amount of pressure is to insert a rigid arm into the interior of the tubular component so that the arm applies a pressure on the component proximate the ultrasonic transducer and horn. This technique is often undesirable because of the required amount of fixturing, the difficulty in applying the proper amounts of pressure, the time involved to properly position the arm, and/or the inability of an arm to provide adequate amounts of pressure at hard-to-reach locations on the component. Accordingly, a need exists for an apparatus that conveniently provides pressure to a component during ultrasonic welding.